



**Director of  
Central  
Intelligence**

~~**Top Secret**~~

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# **National Intelligence Daily**

*Saturday  
24 September 1983*

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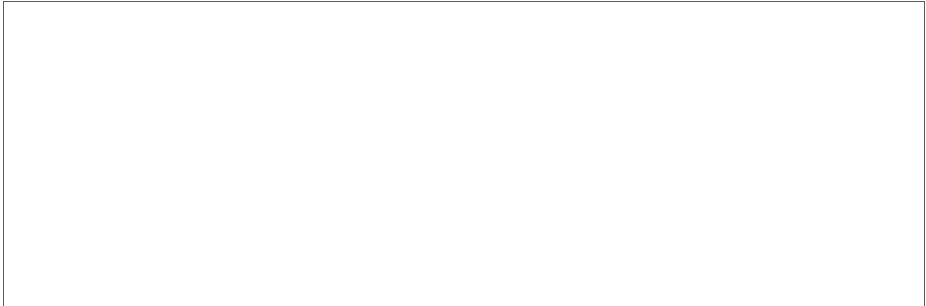
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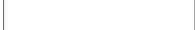
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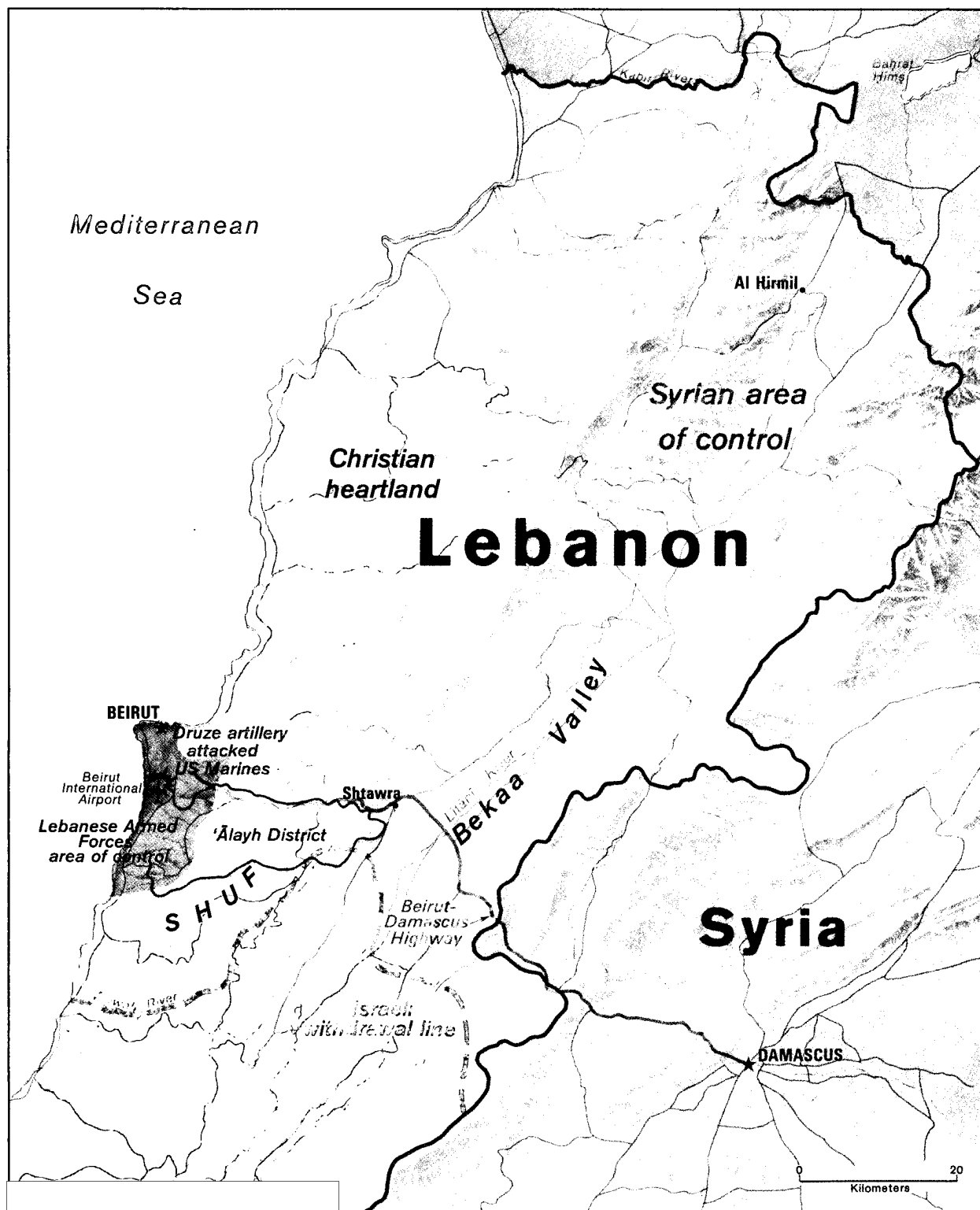
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**LEBANON: Continued Shelling**

*US Marine positions at Beirut International Airport came under heavy fire yesterday as cease-fire negotiations once again stalled.*

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The Marines also reported receiving heavy small arms fire. At least four Marines were wounded.

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Lebanon yesterday balked at a Syrian request that President Gemayel commit his government beforehand to implementing the results of a national reconciliation conference. Damascus had also submitted several options concerning participants in the conference that Gemayel found unacceptable.

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**Comment:** US naval shelling of Druze artillery positions this week may have prompted the Druze to retaliate against the Marines. Shia militiamen, who have sporadically harassed the Marines' positions, may also have been involved. Attacks on Multinational Force personnel and installations are likely to increase as the Muslim militias view the US military role as one of support for the Gemayel government.

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**WESTERN EUROPE-LEBANON: Concern Over MNF**

*France, Italy, and the UK are increasingly wary of growing military involvement in Lebanon, and domestic opposition is making continued participation in the Multinational Force politically difficult.* [ ]

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A French military spokesman says the use of French fighter-bombers outside Beirut on Thursday was an act of self-defense. Earlier, Foreign Minister Cheysson criticized the US Navy's fire support for the Lebanese Army. [ ]

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Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti says Italy will remain in the Multinational Force, but the US Embassy reports heightened official and public concern about Italy's involvement in the widening Lebanese conflict. Defense Minister Spadolini told the Lebanese Ambassador that the Italian Government was encountering increasing criticism from the Communists and even some Christian Democrats. The leader of the Liberal Party has hinted that Italian forces might be pulled out if they incur heavy losses. [ ]

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British Prime Minister Thatcher, while emphasizing the usefulness of the peacekeeping force, has said that it should be careful to avoid becoming mired in the civil war. Foreign Secretary Howe has stated, however, that an immediate withdrawal of British troops would be highly irresponsible. [ ]

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The Defense Ministers of France, the UK, and West Germany met in Rome this week to discuss collaboration in Lebanon. [ ]

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**Comment:** France, by describing the bombing as "self defense," wants to distinguish its response from US actions supporting the largely Christian Lebanese Army. It wants to avoid the appearance that it is favoring the Christians over other factions. [ ]

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The French, Italian, and British Governments continue to advocate national reconciliation under President Gemayel, and they are concerned that US military action will alienate Arab countries and lead to a permanent partition of Lebanon. Mounting domestic opposition is likely to prevent them from enlarging their contingents, and it may even lead to troop withdrawals—particularly if casualties increase. In the meantime, the West Europeans probably will continue to call for a stronger UN role in Lebanon. [ ]

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**PHILIPPINES: Plans for the Commission of Inquiry**

*The government is weighing plans to strengthen the commission of inquiry into Benigno Aquino's death and adopting even stricter security measures in the wake of sporadic violence in Manila yesterday.* [REDACTED]

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Government officials say that President Marcos may appoint new members to the commission who are acceptable to the opposition. In addition, press reports quote Marcos as saying the details of the assassination plot may be released shortly. [REDACTED]

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Armed forces Chief of Staff Ver, meanwhile, has instructed all regional commanders and police to arrest demonstrators. He also has ordered the revocation of private permits to carry firearms. Several dozen people participating in disturbances yesterday near the US Embassy, in the vicinity of the presidential palace, and in the financial district have already been scheduled for court appearances. [REDACTED]

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**Comment:** With new security measures in place, Marcos probably believes that public discontent over the investigation is more likely than anything else to provide a rallying point for future demonstrations. At the same time, he almost certainly wants to reduce pressure being exerted by US authorities to clear up the questions surrounding the assassination. Reconstituting the commission would address both these concerns. [REDACTED]

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**EL SALVADOR: Fighting Intensifies**

*The guerrillas have increased attacks in the east over the past week, while the Army is conducting a major operation in southern Usulután Department.* [ ]

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The insurgents attacked and briefly occupied several towns in north-central Usulután and in neighboring San Miguel Department, and they are harassing government forces in Morazan. According to the US defense attache, four bridges along the Littoral Highway east of the city of Usulután have been sabotaged by the guerrillas. The government has sent reinforcements to key installations and has increased patrolling along the main highways. [ ]

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The Army's two-week-old campaign in Usulután is encountering strong resistance. Last week the US-trained Atlacatl immediate-reaction battalion led a sweep of southeastern Usulután to recapture the town of Jucuaran. The final phase of the operation in Usulután began on Monday with the Atlacatl and Atonal battalions, supported by air force and naval units, attacking a large insurgent force in the southwestern part of the Department. [ ]

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A third immediate-reaction battalion has been moved into northern Usulután, and the defense attache reports a fourth may be sent soon to the southeast. Operational control of the offensive reportedly will be given to the Army commander in San Vicente. [ ]

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**Comment:** The commander of Usulután Department has been criticized in the past for his lack of aggressiveness, and the appointment of a new commander for the operation may yield better results. The commitment of the US-trained battalions in the Department reduces the Army's ability to respond to large-scale guerrilla attacks elsewhere in the country. [ ]

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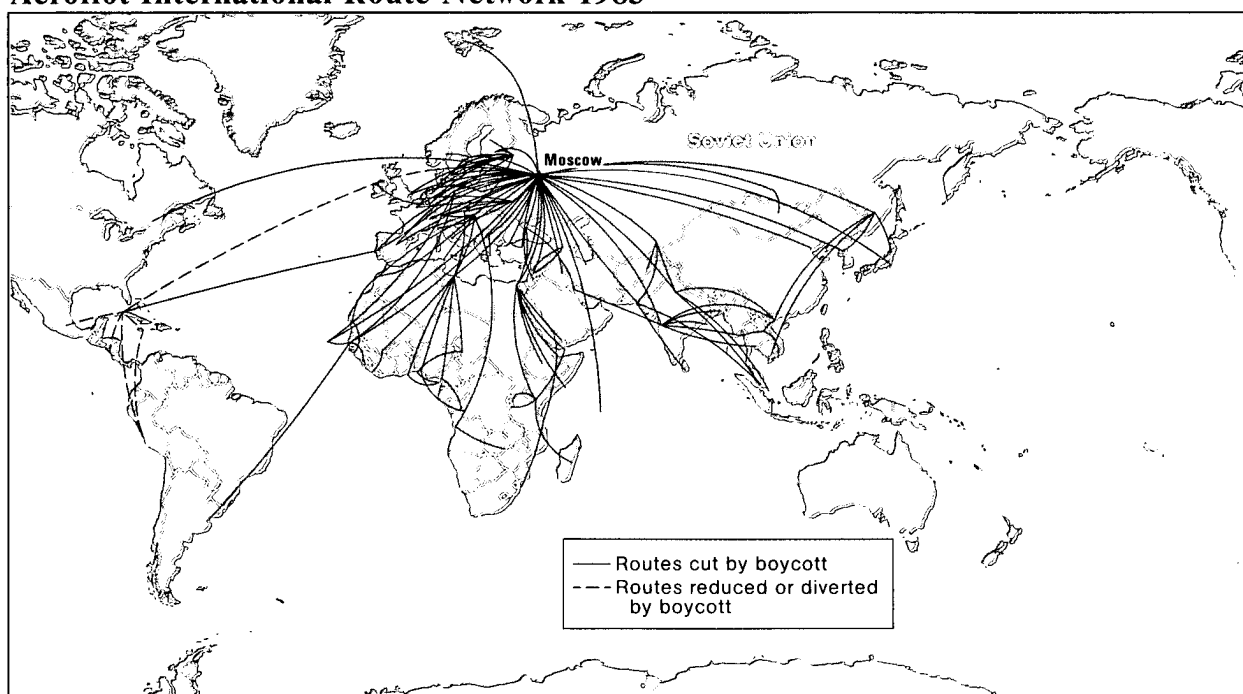
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### Aeroflot International Route Network 1983



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**USSR: Outlook for Aeroflot**

*The short-term economic impact of the measures taken by various governments and by the civil aviation community against Aeroflot and the USSR in response to the shootdown of the South Korean airliner are likely to be negligible, but the USSR's efforts over time to expand its air service into additional areas may suffer.* [ ]

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Aeroflot, the world's largest airline, provides the USSR with important political and economic links to other countries. Although more than 97 percent of the Aeroflot's business is domestic, it has a broad but thinly served international network that services 95 countries. By modernizing its fleet, improving the quality of service, and assigning its best pilots to international routes, the airline has acquired a creditable reputation. [ ]

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The combined measures taken against Aeroflot by a number of Western countries and by pilots' associations and trade unions have temporarily disrupted its operations in Western Europe and the Western Hemisphere. The moves have cut more than one-fourth of Aeroflot's international flights and about half of the flights from non-Communist countries to the USSR. [ ]

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**Comment:** The economic impact of these disruptions for the two-week duration of the government-sponsored boycott—the first such major collective action in history—is likely to be minimal. Losses in gross revenues probably will be no more than \$5 million to \$6 million per week. [ ]

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In the long run, however, the incident is likely to make it more difficult for the Soviets to obtain bilateral agreements with countries in Latin America and in the western Pacific not currently included in Aeroflot's global route network. Nevertheless, the Soviets will continue to assign top priority to such arrangements. [ ]

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**ARGENTINA: Presidential Campaign**

*With only five weeks left before elections, the traditionally dominant Peronist Party remains beset by internal dissension and is locked in a tight race with the rival Radical Civic Union.* [REDACTED]

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Peronist candidate Luder and his key labor allies have been unable to maintain party discipline. [REDACTED]

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Since gaining the nomination of the Radical party last month, Raul Alfonsin has continued to build a strong following. He is running an aggressive media campaign attacking the military- and Peronist-controlled unions, defending human rights, and pushing populist programs to broaden his party's traditional middle class base. [REDACTED]

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Recent polls give Alfonsin a slight edge over Luder, largely because of his appeal to new voters. These include women, professionals, and better educated Argentines—who make up roughly half of the country's 18 million voters. Alfonsin also is gaining some support from labor. [REDACTED]

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**Comment:** Disaffection among local Peronist politicians has dampened prospects for the Peronist campaign to gain quick momentum. In addition, the Peronists need traditional labor unity if they are to defeat the Radical Civic Union. [REDACTED]

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The uncontrolled strikes are likely to persist. They could alienate voters by reminding them of the internal wrangling and labor restiveness that characterized earlier, ineffective Peronist governments. Alfonsin has to hold together a still tenuous coalition, which has not been strongly tested because of the Peronists' late start. [REDACTED]

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**INDIA: Progress Toward Opposition Unity**

*Several major opposition parties are moving closer to establishing a united front in an effort to mount a more coherent challenge to Prime Minister Gandhi.* [ ]

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Two multiparty alliances have been formed in the past several weeks. The two principal Hindi language-based opposition parties have announced a National Democratic Alliance that will compete with Gandhi's Congress Party in the crucial northern states. A second grouping of four slightly left-of-center parties, the United Front, is appealing for allies among the increasingly important regional parties.

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Several politicians are trying to form a front to include all non-Communist parties that comprised the Janata Party that defeated Gandhi in 1977. The US Embassy reports that opposition leaders hope they can make gains against the Congress Party, which suffered serious losses earlier this year. Unity efforts are being spurred by widespread speculation that national elections could come as early as next January. [ ]

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**Comment:** Gandhi will again seek to thwart opposition efforts by offering enticements to opportunistic politicians, particularly those in the regional parties. The opposition also has to contend with longstanding personal, ethnic, and ideological differences. [ ]

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The heightened political competition may cause an increase in leftist rhetoric from Gandhi and other senior members of her party anxious to protect their flanks. Although Gandhi wants to keep relations with the US on an even keel, she is likely to criticize US policy on Pakistan as part of her election tactics. [ ]

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### **NICARAGUA: More Insurgent Air Raids**

Insurgent aircraft bombed targets on the Pacific coast yesterday.

[redacted]  
[redacted] In a press interview, a spokesman for  
Eden Pastora's Democratic Revolutionary Alliance claimed  
responsibility and termed the raids successful, saying the target at  
Puerto Sandino was a thermoelectric plant. [redacted]

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**Comment:** While the extent of damage is unclear, the raids will be  
unsettling to the Sandinistas. The attacks provide dramatic publicity  
for Pastora, and they also emphasize weaknesses in Sandinista air  
defenses. [redacted]

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